

The **PERFINS** Bulletin

The official publication of The Perfins Club Inc., APS Affiliate 57

Notes from here and there ...

Perforator Find Ivan A. Pfalser (#765) reported his acquisition of a Cummins model #52 perforator at an estate auction in Caney, Kansas. In Ivan's own words:

"I noted a lever activated press type looking machine. I started to pick it up, but it felt like it weighed a ton (at least 10 to 20 pounds). I noted a brass plate that read "Cummins Perforator Co., Chicago, Ill. & New York." I almost had heart failure. I was pretty sure what it was, but I sure was not going to try it out as I did not want to alert any antique dealer as to what it was. It was quite evident as the auction proceeded no one knew what it was. When it finally came up for sale, I bid it in at \$1.00. No one else shared any interest and it was mine. I carried it off and found a piece of paper to try it out."

A sample punch from the five die device is shown below.

PPL PPL PPL PPL PPL

The *Catalog of United States Perfins* lists this as perfin pattern P189, the user has never been identified, but usage from Bowie, Texas is noted. This location listing may be in error as may be noted from an other portion of Ivan's letter:

"Considering the previous owner and the history of this area, I can pretty well narrow down the user to two possibilities. The estate was of an individual who left no immediate family and therefore no one is available to determine where he acquired the device. The previous owner's parents were early residents of Caney and he was born in town and lived there all of his life."

He worked for about ten years for Phillips Petroleum Company in Bartlesville, OK (about 20 miles south of Caney) as a mechanical engineering draftsman during the 1950s and 60s. Over the years Phillips, like many other companies, split off various divisions. One of these was Phillips Pipe Line Company (PPL).

While I worked for this company until my recent retirement, I started in 1958 well after the general replacement of perfins by postage meters.

"On the other hand there is another possible source. Around 1905 John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company spawned the Prairie PipeLine Company which could be abbreviated 'PPL'. If I were to bet on which of the two companies used perfins PPL, I would select the Prairie Pipeline Company."

